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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S. D.A.

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## Early Outlook For Crops Less Than Satisfactory in Wide Areas

Factors likely to affect this year's crop production have been less than satisfactory in much of the country. Ground was dry and hard last fall; plowing was slowed and crops that were sown faced the drought hazard for a time—until snow and rain finally came in most areas. Too early, yet, to appraise the snow pack for supplies of irrigation water, but accumulations are less than the large supplies of a year ago. Fall-sown grains, pasture and hay crops are making fairly good progress, but in some areas are in poor condition.

## Little Improvement In Wheat Prospects

Little encouragement early in January that the December estimate of winter wheat production will be exceeded. That estimate was 611 million bushels, only three-fourths of an average crop.

## Condition Unsettled in Important Areas

Condition of winter wheat continued precarious in the Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest. It was fair to satisfactory in the Mountain States and California, and about as usual in the North Central region, ranging up to good in Illinois and Michigan and in much of the South... Surface soil moisture early in January was mostly adequate except in drier portions of the Great Plains, but subsoil moisture was short throughout the Great Plains and wheat areas of the Pacific Northwest. Subsoil moisture was also short in scattered portions from Missouri and Arkansas eastward to the Atlantic where winter precipitation was likely to correct the situation... Growth has been slow in all areas and it is only recently that wheat has been large enough for grazing in parts of the southwest.

## Large Wheat Stocks, Despite Heavy Movement

Despite heavy movement of wheat from farms since harvest, stocks of 399 million bushels on farms January 1 are relatively large for the date. Year ago these stocks were 335 million bushels; 1942-51 average, 382 million. Movement from farms since harvest, nearly a billion bushels.

## Corn Stocks 2.2 Billion Bushels

Corn stocks on farms January 1 total 2.2 billion bushels, up 15 percent from the 1.9 billion bushels on farms a year ago and about 6 percent above average. Current stocks are 72.4 percent of production, compared with 72.3 percent a year ago. Disappearance from farms October through December amounted to 1 billion bushels. This was close to average but was 4 percent smaller than during the same period a year earlier.

## Other Grain Stocks on Farms January 1

Oats on farms, 791.7 million bushels. Year ago, 845.5 million; average, 821 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 215 million bushels, or a decrease of about 47 million bushels from a year earlier. Barley, 99.2 million bushels. Year ago, 124 million; average, 147 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 34 million bushels. This is the smallest disappearance for the period in 14 years. Rye, 3.6 million bushels. Year ago 6.5 million; average, 11.3 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 2.9 million bushels. This compares with 3.9 million year earlier.

Sorghum Grain, 23.9 million bushels. Year ago, 52.5 million; average, 58.3 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 65 million bushels, much below the 115.5 million a year earlier.

Soybeans, 81.7 million bushels. Year ago, 104.2 million; average, 62 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 212 million bushels. This record disappearance exceeds the 181 million disappearing a year earlier, also the previous record of 199 million bushels for the same period in 1950.

Flaxseed, 9.7 million bushels. Year ago, 11.6 million; average, 10.6 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 3.6 million bushels, compared with 9.2 million year earlier.

## About Average Hay Stocks, Despite Heavy Movement From Farms

The 68 million tons of hay on farms January 1 compare with 73 million a year ago. These stocks, however, are only a little below the 1942-51 average of 69.5 million tons. The total of 51 million tons disappearing from farms during the last 8 months of 1952 is about the same as the previous record disappearance in 1946. Recent heavy movement of hay from farms reflects shipments to drought areas where use has been heavy to offset lack of grazing.

## Little Grazing On Ranges Last Month

Western ranges in most areas yielded little grazing in December, partly because of dry conditions, partly because of snow cover in northerly areas. This has resulted in heavy drains on supplemental feeds and hay.

## About Adequate Feed Grains

The total of 76.6 million tons of feed grains now on farms provides adequate supplies for the decreased numbers of livestock to be fed and, with the increase this year in corn, is expected to leave some for building up carry-over stocks. Last year at this time the total

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS  
AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Nov. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.13	2.12	2.43
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.45	1.50	1.77
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.8	11.0	13.2
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	1/ 34.05	1/ 31.71	34.10
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.17	1.99	1.72
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	16.70	16.00	21.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ...dol.	21.30	19.70	20.70
Veal calves, 100 lb. ...dol.	23.60	22.40	23.10
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.90	19.50	22.70
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	2/ 68.1	2/ 64.0	75.0
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ...dol.	2/ 4.84	2/3/ 4.74	4.72
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	26.4	26.4	31.8
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	2/ 44.4	2/ 39.8	50.2

1/ American upland cotton.  
2/ Adjusted.  
3/ Preliminary.



on farms was 70 million tons and there are fewer animal units to be fed during the remainder of the feeding season than last year.

#### More Cattle on Feed-Fewer Sheep and Lambs

Sixteen percent more cattle were reported on feed January 1 than a year ago...5.8 million head compared with 4.3 million. The number of sheep and lambs on feed was smaller than a year ago by 7 percent.

#### Fewer Sows To Farrow—Smaller Pig Crops

Sows to farrow this coming spring are indicated about 13 percent fewer than a year ago. And the pig crop last fall was 11 percent smaller than a year earlier.

#### More Beef and Veal, Less Pork and Lamb

Meat production this winter is expected to decrease seasonally and to total about the same as last winter. There will be more beef and veal but less pork. Output of lamb probably will drop below corresponding 1952 levels.

#### Milk Production, New High for December

The 8.2 billion pounds of milk produced on farms in December topped that of a year earlier by 5 percent and is record high for the month. Previous peaks for December were in 1942 and in 1944 when production totaled about 8.1 billion pounds. Production for the 12 months of 1952 totaled 114.8 billion pounds (preliminary) compared with 115.6 billion in 1951 and 116.7 billion pounds for the 10-year average.

#### Record Egg Production

The 5 billion eggs laid in December is a new record, 6 percent higher than the previous record set in December a year ago. 10-year average is 3.7 billion. Total production last year, 61.5 billion eggs, was record high. Compares with 59.4 billion in '51 and 54 billion 10-year average. The 4 percent increase in '52 was due largely to the record lay of 178 eggs per hen. Number of layers was also up 1 percent.

#### More Winter Vegetables

Estimates indicate 6 percent more fresh vegetables this winter than last and 10 percent more than average. Tonnages will be larger for cabbage, carrots and lettuce; also for beets, tomatoes, cucumbers and sweet corn. Smaller tonnages than a year earlier for celery, snap beans, escarole, broccoli, spinach, shallots and green peppers.

#### A Few More Oranges Than Last Year

Utilization of oranges to January 1 totaled about 19 million boxes, same as last season. This leaves about 102 million boxes available, compared with 99 million a year ago. Output of early and mid season oranges, at 57.8 million boxes, is 21 percent above average but only slightly larger than last year. Valencias, at 62.8 million boxes, top average by 15 percent and last year by 3 percent.

#### Less Grapefruit Available

Grapefruit available after January 1 totaled 27.5 million boxes, 4 million less than available a year ago. Production is placed at 37.4 million boxes, 27 percent below average and down from last year by 8 percent. Utilization of grapefruit to January 1 was greater than during the same period a year earlier.

#### More Lemons Than A Year Ago

California lemons, forecast at 13.1 million boxes, top average by 4 percent and last year's production by 2 percent.

#### Demand for Farm Products, Domestic and Foreign

Demand for farm products continues strong here at home but export demand has dropped sharply. Value of

farm products sold abroad third quarter last year was down nearly a third from a year earlier...Sharpest drops were in wheat and cotton, our main export commodities.

#### Farm Income Up—Larger Volume Marketed

The total of 30.1 billion dollars that farmers received from marketings during the first 11 months of 1952 was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Volume of marketings was up 5 percent but sold for lower average prices.

#### Farmers' Prices Below Parity

Farmers' prices in December averaged 4 percent below parity, lowest parity ratio since April 1950.

#### Lower Prices Received; Prices Paid, Little Change

Prices received by farmers mid-December averaged 12 percent lower than a year earlier. Prices paid (including interest, taxes, and wage rates) were down only 1 percent on the average from a year ago.

#### Smaller Share of Food Dollar

The market basket of farm foods brought \$739 at retail in November, \$7 higher than a year earlier. The farm value of the same foods, however, was lower by \$21 than a year earlier, a drop of about 6 percent. Farmers got only 46 cents of each dollar that consumers spent for farm foods...down 3 cents from a year earlier and about the lowest since the end of World War II.

#### Farm Employment, Record Low; Wages Higher

Number working on farms in late December, estimated at 6.5 million persons, was both a seasonal low and the lowest on record. It was the time of year when most farms had only routine chores to do. Estimate was 22 percent below the previous month but was also down 1 percent from the record low of a year ago. Farm wage rates January 1 averaged 3 percent higher than a year ago.

#### Total Employment Continues at High Level

Total number of civilians at work in December was 61.5 million. Compares with 61.0 million year earlier. Only 1.4 million are without jobs as compared with 1.7 year ago. As late as 1940 (just before World War II), about 8 million persons were without jobs.

### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Dec. 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	269
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	281
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	96
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	N.A.
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 300
Farm wage rates .....	'10-14=100	2/ 514
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	1/ 615
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Dec. 1951	Jan.-Dec. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	115.6	114.8
Eggs, (bil.).....	59.4	61.5
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 5885	3/ 6433
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 427	3/ 525
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 10206	3/ 10127
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 17062	3/ 17725
1/ November figure. 2/ January, 1953 figure. 3/ Jan.-Nov., under Federal inspection. N.A. = Not Available.		